

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1289
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8494

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, TW, UR
SUBJECT: CHINA AND THE 21ST OLYMPIC GAMES

1. CHINA'S DOMESTIC MEDIA ORGANS HAVE REFRAINED FROM GLOATING OVER THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) DECISION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE 21ST OLYMPIC GAMES IN MONTREAL AND HAVE TENDED TO SOFT-PEDAL NEGATIVE VIEWS OF THE U.S. ATTITUDE.

2. A JULY 19 ARTICLE ON THE MONTREAL PRESS CONFERENCE OF CHAO CHENG-HUNG, PRESIDENT OF THE ALL-CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION, NOTED HIS REITERATION OF THE PRC POSITION REJECTING ALL "TWO CHINA PLOTS" AND HE PARTICIPATION OF THE "SO-CALLED SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHIANG CLIQUE IN WHATEVER FORM UNDER WHATEVER NAME IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES." IT STATED THAT CHAO ALSO "STERNLY CONDEMNED THE TWO SUPERPOWERS," BUT DOES NOT SINGLE OUT THE U.S. FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM. NCNA MERELY CITED CHAO AS STATING THAT "IT IS LEARNED THAT UNDER THE MANIPULATION AND BUSY MANEUVERING BY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, A FEW DIE-HARDS IN THE IOC ARE PLOTTING TO ALLOW THE CHIANG CLIQUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 21ST OLYMPIC GAMES...."

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3. ALTHOUGH PRC MEDIA HAVE AVOIDED COMMENT ON PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENTS, AN ARTICLE IN THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST-OWNED PRESS SARCASTICALLY CENSURED THE SECRETARY FOR HIS ATTITUDE ON TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION THE THE GAMES. ENTITLED "DR. KISSINGER'S ANGER," THE JULY 10 HSIN WAN PAO ARTICLE LINKS THE SECRETARY'S DECISION TO "BOYCOTT" THE GAMES' OPENING CEREMONIES WITH HIS DISAPPROVAL OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON TAIWAN. AUTHOR SZ WEI (REPORTEDLY A PSEUDONYM OF THE PAPER' SCHIEF EDITOR, LO FU) VIEWS THE SECRETARY'S DECISION THAT IT WAS "INCONVENIENT" (BU FANG BIAN) TO ATTEND THE CEREMONIES DUE TO TAIWAN'S NON-PARTICIPATION AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT THE NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. THE ARTICLE OBSERVES THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS MAY HAVE CLOUDED HIS JUDGMENT.

4. ON THE SAME DAY, A COMMENTARY IN HONG KONG'S LARGER PRC DAILY, WEN WEI PAO, RIDICULED THE TAIWAN OLYMPIC REPRESENTATIVES' STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THEIR DECISION TO PULL OUT OF THIS YEAR'S GAMES. AFTER MENTION OF CONFLICTING VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT TAIWAN SHOULD PARTICIPATE, THE PAPER TAKES ISSUE WHICH ONE FACTION'S INSISTENCE ON DEFENDING THE "DIGNITY" OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. THE COMMENTARY STATES THAT THE CHIANG CLIQUE'S FAWNING ON FOREIGNERS AND BETRAYING ITS OWN COUNTRY HAS RENDERED SUCH TALK ABOUT DIGNITY MEANINGLESS. IT CLOSES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE IOC DECISION INDICATES HOW INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT IT IS FOR "OBSTINANT ELEMENTS" IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS AREA TO PLAY "TWO CHINA," "ONE CHINA, ONE TAIWAN" TRICKS. CROSS

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